

2. (Amended) A plinth according to Claim 1, wherein the abutment portion has an upper engagement face oriented away from the plug portion and defining a flat upper engagement zone at right angles to [the] said axis

3. (Amended) A plinth according to Claim 2, [defining] wherein the abutment portion defines a cavity for receiving [a] said diode[, with the] said cavity having an upper engagement face projecting from [the] said cavity in the axial direction.

4. (Amended) A plinth according to Claim 1, wherein the abutment portion has a lower engagement face oriented towards the plug portion and defining a flat lower engagement zone at right angles to [the] said axis.

5. (Amended) An assembly comprising a diode having a casing and a plinth according to Claim 1, [the] said casing being fixed to the plinth.

8. (Amended) An alternator including a support having a hole, and an assembly according to Claim 5 with the plug portion of the plinth force-fitted into [the] said hole in the support.

9. (Amended) An alternator according to Claim 8 having a diode disposed to one side of [the] said support, the abutment portion of the plinth being on the other side of the support.

10. (Amended) An alternator according to Claim 8, wherein [the] said hole is a blind hole.

Please add new claims as follows.

11. (New) A plinth for supporting a diode comprising:  
a plug portion having an upper face and defining an axis at right angle to the upper face; and

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an abutment portion contiguous with the plug portion and projecting upwardly away from the upper face of the plug portion in the direction of the axis, the abutment portion having a cavity at its upper face for receiving one end of the diode.

12. (New) The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plinth comprises

an electrically conductive metal.

13. (New) The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plinth comprises

one integral piece.

14. (New) The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plug portion and

the abutment portion are cylindrical in shape with respect to the direction of the axis, and the plug portion has a smaller radius than the abutment portion.

15. (New) The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the diode is welded to

the plinth.

16. (New) The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plug portion and

the abutment portion are thick discs.

17. (New) A motor vehicle alternator comprising the plinth according to

claim 1 and a diode affixed to the plinth.

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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the number provided.

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**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4541.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4541. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 16, 1999

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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